



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/766,162	01/28/2004	Andi Vonlanthen	31856US3	3393
116 7590 10/17/2007 PEARNE & GORDON LLP 1801 EAST 9TH STREET SUITE 1200 CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108			EXAMINER LE, HUYEN D	
			ART UNIT 2615	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/17/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/766,162

Applicant(s)

VONLANTHEN, ANDI

Examiner

HUYEN D. LE

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawing (figure 9) was received on 05/19/06. This drawing has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification, as originally filed, does not provide support for the limitation of each of said plurality of modules being adapted for snap-locking as is now claimed in claim 10.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 3, line 2, it is not clear that "said module" is referred to the wireless signal transmission module or the battery compartment module.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 3 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerns (U.S. patent 6,144,748).

Regarding claims 1 and 3, Kerns teaches a hearing device comprising a housing adapted for placement behind the ear (figure 1a, 1c). The housing has a base part and the auxiliary device packages or the modules (240) that are releasably mounted to the base part by a hinge part (figures 1, 1b, 1c, 1d and 2), wherein the module (240) is a wireless signal transmission module (col. 1, lines 61-64 and col. 2, lines 57-61).

Kerns does not specifically teach that the auxiliary device or the wireless signal transmission module (240) comprises a battery compartment module. However, Kerns does teach an external connector (221) to provide power and ground to the module (240, figure 2 and see col. 2, lines 43-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a battery compartment module in the housing of the hearing device (210) or in the wireless signal transmission module (240) for the same desired purpose of providing a power source for the wireless signal transmission module.

Art Unit: 2615

Regarding claim 10, as best understood with regarding 112, 1st, Kerns shows the auxiliary device packages or the modules (240) that are adapted for snap-locking (figures 1c, 1d and see col. 6, lines 55-57).

Regarding claim 10, as best understood with regarding 112, 1st and interpreted in a different manner, Kerns does not specifically teach the module of the battery compartment being adapted for snap-locking. However, Kerns does teach a snap-locking for the auxiliary device (240, figure 1c and col. 6, lines 55-57).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a snap-locking for the wireless transmission module and the battery compartment module for better connecting the modules to the housing.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3 and 10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUYEN D. LE whose telephone number is (571) 272-7502. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, SINH TRAN can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2615

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HL

October 14, 2007

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawing (figure 9) was received on 05/19/06. This drawing has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification, as originally filed, does not provide support for the limitation of each of said plurality of modules being adapted for snap-locking as is now claimed in claim 10.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 3, line 2, it is not clear that "said module" is referred to the wireless signal transmission module or the battery compartment module.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 3 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerns (U.S. patent 6,144,748).

Regarding claims 1 and 3, Kerns teaches a hearing device comprising a housing adapted for placement behind the ear (figure 1a, 1c). Kern further teaches the housing that has a base part and the auxiliary device packages or the modules (240) that are releasably mounted to the base part by a hinge part (figures 1, 1b, 1c, 1d and 2), wherein the module (240) is a wireless signal transmission module (col. 1, lines 61-64 and col. 2, lines 57-61).

Kerns does not specifically teach the auxiliary device or the wireless signal transmission module (240) that comprises a battery compartment module. However, Kerns does teach an external connector (221) to provide power and ground to the module (240, figure 2 and see col. 2, lines 43-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a battery compartment module in the housing of the hearing device (210) or in the wireless signal transmission module (240) for the same desired purpose of providing a power source for the wireless signal transmission module.

Regarding claim 10, as best understood with regarding 112, 1st, Kerns shows the auxiliary device packages or the modules (240) that are adapted for snap-locking (figures 1c, 1d and see col. 6, lines 55-57).

Regarding claim 10, as best understood with regarding 112, 1st and interpreted in a different manner, Kerns does not specifically teach the module of the battery compartment being adapted for snap-locking. However, Kerns does teach a snap-locking for the auxiliary device (240, figure 1c and col. 6, lines 55-57).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a snap-locking for the wireless transmission module and the battery compartment module for better connecting the modules to the housing.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3 and 10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUYEN D. LE whose telephone number is (571) 272-7502. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, SINH TRAN can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2615

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



HL
October 14, 2007



HUYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Approved to enter
10/14/07

SN: 10/766,162
Conf. No.: 3393
Atty. Docket No. 31856US3
NEW DRAWING SHEET

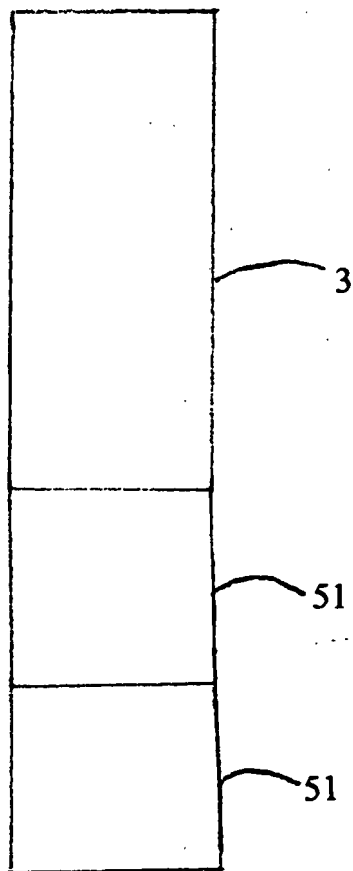


FIG. 9